

**VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

12. (Amended) The invention of claim ~~1~~<sup>+</sup>21 wherein said frame fastener includes:

- a) a tab with first and second tab halves each mounted on a respective frame section; and
- b) a coupling selectively receiving said tab halves with said fastener assembly in a closed configuration thereof.

13. (Amended) The invention of claim ~~1~~<sup>+</sup>21 wherein each said frame section includes a solid, continuous exterior surface.

16. (Amended) The invention of claim ~~1~~<sup>+</sup>21, which includes:

- a) said frame comprising plastic;
- b) said frame fastener comprising first and second notched latch members each mounted on a respective frame section; and
- c) said frame fastener having an open configuration with said latch members disengaged and a closed configuration with said latch members engaged.

18. (Amended) In combination with an air handling system of a heating, ventilating and air conditioning system including a supply duct, a diffuser and a length of flexible duct interconnecting same and including an arcuate bend, the improvement of a sleeve assembly which comprises:

a) a frame including:

- 1) opposite first and second ends;
- 2) an inner radius frame section including an inner radius arc extending between said ends;
- 3) an inner radius frame section including an outer radius arc extending between said ends;
- 4) an arcuate longitudinal axis extending between said ends in generally parallel relation with respect to said arcs;
- 5) a plurality of annular rings, including a first end ring located adjacent to said frame first end, a second end ring located adjacent to said frame second end and an intermediate ring located between said end rings;
- 6) each said ring lying generally in a plane perpendicular to said longitudinal axis;
- 7) each said ring comprising an inner rib of said inner radius frame section and an outer rib of said outer radius frame section;
- 8) each said frame section including a pair of arcuate side edges; and
- 9) a passage extending between and open at said ends, said passage receiving said flexible duct; and

- b) a plurality of fastener subassemblies each mounted on said frame adjacent to said section side edges, each said fastener subassembly having an open position with said frame sections disengaged and a closed position with said frame sections engaged.